

## Menomonie Urban Forestry Board Minutes

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 – 1:00pm – Lower-Level Conference Room 58 - City Hall

### **Committee Members Present:**

John Anshus (Absent)	Cindy Gilberts (1.0 hr.)	Joe Jax (Chair) (2.0 hr.)
Bob Giede (Absent)	Dennis Kropp (Absent)	Mike Schendel (1.0 hr.)
Mike Smith (2.0 hr.)	Eric Sutherland (1.5 hrs.)	Monika Herrmann (+3.0 hr.)

### **Others present:** Megan Hines, Mike Morrow, Tammy Eckert

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Joe Jax. A sign-up sheet was passed around with names of attendees and their number of volunteer hours worked. September minutes were sent to the committee prior to the meeting and were reviewed. Cindy Gilberts made a motion to accept those minutes and Monika Herrmann seconded. Motion passed.

### **Public Comment:** None

**2023 DNR Urban Forestry Grant Application:** The Forestry Grant Application was submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with an expected time of response estimated to be about one month. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$25,000 and require a 50/50 match (total project cost range is \$2,000 to \$50,000). If awarded, projects begin Jan. 1, of 2023 and must be completed within one calendar year.

**Ordinance/Website Review:** Monika Herrmann shared ideas of a 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Urban Forestry Board Ordinance. Compartmentalizing subjects for faster searches, changing some of the wording and removing some words for more clarity, attaching links to resources was discussed. Dennis Kropp & Monika Herrmann will meet to continue work on compiling changes to the ordinance and present to the board. The Website would be part of the grant application for 2023 if awarded.

**Ash Bench Project:** Monika spoke to Kevin Dietsche at UW Stout (Jerry Johnson has retired) and Kevin gave some ideas for ways to give back to the community with the downed ash tree wood instead of making benches due to the cost of that project i.e., manpower to install them, the potential for liability and a need for their upkeep maintenance or replacement. Kevin suggested the idea of possibly crafting puzzles and/or toys going forward. Mike Morrow will get inventory and a map assembled as to how many Ash benches the city has and their locations for the next meeting. In future, UW Stout students could study and identify the finish of the existing benches and create a maintenance plan for their upkeep and replacement if needed.

**2023 Budget- Review & Approval:** Cindy Gilberts made a motion and Eric Sutherland seconded the go ahead to get approval from the City Council to request \$14,000 for the Urban Forestry Board Budget along with an additional \$5,000.00 for CIP (Capital Improvement Fund) for 50% matching Grant Support. Motion passed.

### **Urban Forester Report:**

**Fall 2022 Tree Planting Progress:** Mike Morrow reports that where stumps have been removed, trees can be planted. There were 150 stumps in the city and 60 have been ground out so far. When asking citizens if they wanted trees replanted where stumps were in the boulevard, 20 responded saying they would like a tree planted in its' place.

Plans to call diggers hotline on those locations to dig and then plant those trees could happen as soon as the locates are done and the coordination of city staff can be scheduled to do the work.

**Pruning Zone for 2022-2023 Winter:** Pruning begins in the Elmwood Addition (Zone 3) - South Side first.

**Amur Cork Tree Update:** Most all the boulevard Cork trees have been removed. The next step is to identify the private city residents that have affected female Amur Cork trees that need to be cut down. A letter will be sent to those citizens along with the ordinance from the city citing their removal. If the home owner is unable to remove them from their property the city will remove the trees for them at the home owner's cost.

**City Council Report:**

Eric Sutherland reports

- City Council is busy reviewing the 2023 Budget
- A new TID was approved and will affect several trees – more information to come.
- The purchase of a new ambulance was approved.

**Items for Next Meeting Agenda:**

- Urban Forestry Board Ordinance
- Map of locations of Ash Benches
- Clarification of Ash bench Maintenance
- Ideas for Wood Projects
- Create a Tree Walk – Different Tree Types - Destination for visitors
- Memoriam – John Anshus

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 16, 2022 – **1:00 p.m.** in lower level of City Hall – Conference Room 058.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Monika Herrmann to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Eric Sutherland. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by: Tammy Eckert